

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 08029 140944Z
ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 EB-08 COME-00
ACDA-07 USIA-06 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 A-01 L-03 SY-05 PRS-01 DHA-02
/079 W

-----141328Z 067517 /50

R 140910Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1080

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 8029

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CDES, TH
SUBJ: AMERICAN ENGINEER SHOT IN THAILAND

1. HAL MUNDAY, ASSISTANT PROJECT ENGINEER FOR DE LEUW-CATHER, FIRM SUPERVISING CONSTRUCTION OF ASIAN HIGHWAY IN SOUTH THAILAND WAS SHOT TO DEATH IN PHUNPHIN DISTRICT OF SURAT THANAI APRIL 5. AT TIME OF SHOOTING MUNDAY AND THAI ENGINEER ALSO EMPLOYED BY DE LEUW-CATHER WERE INSPECTING PROJECT SITE. WHEN CAR STOPPED FOR ROADBLOCK TWO MEN ON MOTORCYCLE PULLED BESIDE CAR AND SHOT BOTH ENGINEERS KILLING THEM INSTANTLY.

2. DE LEUW-CATHER HAS CONTRACT FOR SUPERVISING CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAY. CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR IS ITAL-THAI. IN PHUNPHIN SECTION, ITAL-THAI HAD SUB-CONTRACTED WORK TO LOCAL OUTFIT LARGELY TO AVOID CONSTANT THEFT AND SABOTAGE OF EQUIPMENT. POLICE OFFICIALS AND OTHERS ASSERT THAT GUNMAN WHO KILLED MUNDAY WAS HIRED BY THIS LOCAL CONTRACTOR WHO RESENTED MUNDAY'S CRITICISM THAT WORK WAS NOT UP TO AGREED UPON SPECIFICATIONS.

3. AMCONSUL SONGHALA DISCUSSED CASE WITH PHUNPHIN DISTRICT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 08029 140944Z

POLICE CHIEF ON APRIL 9. HE CONFIRMED THAT ACCORDING TO WITNESSES AT LEAST ONE MAN RIDING MOTORCYCLE FLEEING SCENE WAS EMPLOYEE OF SUBCONTRACTOR. POLICE CHIEF SAID THE TWO MEN ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE GONE TO NA DERN SUBDISTRICT OF BAN NA SAN DISTRICT IN SURAT. HE SAID HE IS COORDINATING WITH POLICE CHIEF IN BAN NA SAN IN EFFORT TO APPREHEND MURDERS AND STATED HE HOPED ARREST WOULD BE MADE WITHIN SEVERAL DAYS. POLICE CHIEF SAID

ARREST IS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT AREA OF BAN NA SAN WHERE MEN ARE NOW THOUGHT TO BE ONE IN WHICH INSURGENTS ARE ACTIVE, AND THEY MAY ASSIST GUNMEN IN EFFORTS TO AVOID ARREST. AMCONSUL STRESSED CONTINUING INTEREST OF USG IN SEEING JUSTICE DONE.

4. MORALE AMONG DE LEUW-CATHER EMPLOYEES IN PHUNPHIN AREA IS LOW. ACCORDING TO AMCIT JOHN ROGERS, ASSISTANT PROJECT ENGINEER RESIDENT IN NAKHORN SRI THAMMARAT, MOST OF THAI STAFF AND ALL ENGINEERS HAVE EITHER TENDERED RESIGNATIONS OR ARE PLANNING TO QUIT. SEVERAL EMPLOYEES WHO MADE STATEMENTS TO POLICE FOLLOWING MUNDAY'S MURDER NOW FEAR FOR THEIR LIVES AND HAVE ASKED TO BE TRANSFERRED.

5. MORNING OF APRIL 9 DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, SURAT GOVERNOR AND SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS MET IN SURAT TO DISCUSS SECURITY MEASURES FOR MEN WORKING ON ROAD. POLICE HAVE REPORTEDLY AGREED TO PROVIDE GUARDS FOR CONSTRUCTION TEAMS AS WELL AS FOR DELEUW-CATHER PERSONNEL IN PHUNPHIN. ALTHOUGH INSURGENTS HAVE NEVER BOTHERED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, THERE IS SOME CONCERN THAT POLICE GUARDS COULD BECOME TARGET FOR INSURGENTS. ONE ITAL-THAI EMPLOYEE CONFIDED THAT INSURGENTS IN PHUNPHIN HAD EARLIER OFFERED TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND EQUIPMENT AGAINST BANDITS ON CONDITION THAT POLICE NOT BE BROUGHT INTO AREA.

6. EMBASSY BANGKOK HAS PREPARED DIPLOMATIC NOTE FOR MFA EXPRESSING USG CONCERN WITH INCIDENT AND REQUESTING MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ASSISTANCE IN CONDUCTING COMPLETE INVESTIGATION AND APPREHENDING MURDERS IN INTERESTS OF JUSTICE AND TO PROVIDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 08029 140944Z

SAFETY FOR REMAINING CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL.

7. MUNDAY IS SURVIVED BY WIFE AND SON RESIDENT IN THAILAND WHO HAVE ASSUMED CUSTODY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS AND MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISPOSITION OF REMAINS. AMCONSUL SONGKHLA WILL PREPARE FS-192 REPORT OF DEATH.

WHITEHOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO08029
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770129-0928
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770459/aaaabyzr.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d734b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION MCT
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2811749
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN ENGINEER SHOT IN THAILAND
TAGS: PINS, CDES, TH, US, (MUNDAY, HAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d734b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009